

# Pesticide Fact Sheet

## Confusion Regarding Rodents and Rodenticides

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When talking with pesticide dealers and applicators, it becomes obvious that there is sometimes confusion in the interpretation of rodenticide labels. Problems include misidentification of species, incorrect application methods, and non-target or endangered/threatened species concerns when choosing a control for rodents.

The word “gopher” is a common name used to refer to several rodent species in Montana. Therefore, this word causes confusion about rodent identification when selecting the properly registered pesticide for rodent control. It is essential that the rodent be properly identified and called by their true name when selling, buying, or applying rodenticides. Many rodenticides are registered for use on specific rodent species. Rodenticides also have specific restrictions and pre-cautions on their effect to non-target or endangered/threatened species.

### ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS

The following summarizes the most common rodents that are controlled by rodenticides in Montana:

- **Columbian ground squirrel** – Commonly found west of the continental divide – Products currently registered are:
  - **Zinc phosphide grain bait** that is not very effective on this species.
  - **Rozol grain bait** that can be used either as hand-bait or in bait stations.
  - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
- **Richardson ground squirrel** – Commonly found east of the continental divide except for the southeast corner of the state – Products currently registered are:
  - **Zinc phosphide grain bait**, apply prior to spring green up. To be effective, non-toxic oat bait (pre-bait) should be applied 2 or 3 days prior to bait application.
  - **Rozol grain bait** that can be used either as hand-bait or in bait stations.
  - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
- **Northern pocket gopher** – Commonly found statewide – Products currently registered are:
  - **Zinc phosphide grain bait** can be used either by hand baiting methods or burrow building machines.
  - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
  - **Strychnine grain bait** that is to be used only for pocket gophers by hand baiting methods or used in burrow building machines. **NOT FOR USE ON PRAIRIE DOGS, GROUND SQUIRRELS, OR OTHER RODENTS.**
  - **Rozol Pocket Gopher bait** applied by burrow builder or hand baiting in the tunnel.
- **Black-tailed prairie dog** – Commonly found in the eastern two-third of the state – Products currently registered are:
  - **Zinc phosphide grain bait**, apply when vegetation is dry and no longer green. To be effective, nontoxic oat bait (pre-bait) should be applied 2 or 3 days prior to application.
  - **Burrow fumigants** such as ignitable cartridges or aluminum phosphide fumigants.
  - **Rozol or Kaput Prairie Dog bait** applied down the burrow only. See label instructions.
- **Voles (field mice)** – Commonly found statewide – Products currently registered are:
  - **Zinc Phosphide**, applied by hand or broadcast. See label instructions.
  - **Ramik Brown**, hand baited or broadcast in orchards only.
  - **Rozol Vole Bait**, see label for bait locations and methods.

Columbian Ground Squirrel



Richardson Ground Squirrel



Northern pocket gopher



Black-tailed prairie dog



Voles (field mice)

